



**Wyoming
Department of Agriculture**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wyoming Department of Agriculture Requesting Proposals for 2009 USDA Specialty Crop Grant

CHEYENNE (June 30, 2009) - The Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA) is now requesting proposals to be funded through the 2009 USDA Specialty Crop grant. More than \$160,000 in grant money is available to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops in the state of Wyoming.

Any person, non-profit organization, educational institution or municipality that is interested in receiving grant money may submit a proposal by August 5, 2009. Grants may be requested up to \$20,000 with a 25% cash or in-kind match and work must be completed by September 30, 2010. In the past two years, more than \$200,000 has been awarded in grant money for various projects including research, marketing education, wholesale promotion, food safety education, and technical education.

“So far the USDA Specialty Crop grant has opened doors for several projects that have significantly impacted specialty crops in Wyoming,” said Jason Fearneyhough, Director of the Wyoming Department of Agriculture. “We look forward to moving forward with the Specialty Crop grant that helps improve the state of Wyoming’s specialty crop industry.”

In order to receive the grant, proposals must include projects that aim to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops in the state of Wyoming. Specialty crops included are defined as fruits and vegetables, dried fruit, tree nuts and nursery crops (including horticulture). Examples of enhancing the competitiveness of specialty crops include, but not limited to: Research, promotion, marketing, nutrition, trade enhancement, food nutrition, trade enhancements, food safety, food security, plant health programs, education, “buy local” programs increased consumption, increased innovation, improved efficiency and reduced costs of distribution systems, environmental concerns and conservation, product development, and development cooperatives.

For more information on the grant and how you can apply for it, visit <http://agriculture.wy.gov> or please call Ted Craig at 307-777-6651 or Mary Randolph at 307-777-6430.

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